

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 OMB-01

TRSE-00 ACDA-07 IO-13 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

/074 W

-----141258Z 022985 /45

O 141200Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5568

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MAPUTO 0246

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MZ, CG

SUBJECT: BORDER ATTACK IN ZAIRE, MOZAMBIQUE REACTION

REF: STATE 056060

1. SUMMARY: PRESS COVERAGE ON BORDER ATTACK ON ZAIRE HAS BEEN EXTREMELY LIGHT. THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT REACTION. BECAUSE OF CLOSE LINKS BETWEEN FRELIMO AND MPLA, GPRM CAN BE EXPECTED TO SIDE WITH ANGOLANS REGARDLESS OF THE FACTS.
END SUMMARY

2. SINCE START OF ANGOLAN-BASED ATTACK ON ZAIRE LATE LAST WEEK, LOCAL PRESS HAS PUBLISHED ONLY ONE ARTICLE ON INCIDENT. NOTICIAS MARCH 13 FRONTPAGED FULL TEXT OF STATEMENT BY ANGOLAN DEFENSE MINISTRY DENYING THAT ANGOLA WAS IN ANYWAY INVOLVED IN FIGHTING NOW GOING ON IN KATANGA PROVINCE. STATEMENT ACKNOWLEDGED THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN ANGOLA AND ZIARE WERE BAD (BECAUSE ZAIRE CONTINUES TO HELP FLEC, FLNA AND UNITY), BUT ALLEGED THAT ARMED CLASHES NOW OCCURRING IN ZAIRE WERE STRICTLY BETWEEN ZAIROIS. THERE HAVE BEEN NO REPORTS ON ZAIRIAN VERSION OF THE ATTACK.

3. GPRM HAS REMAINED SILENT ON BORDER INCIDENT. IF IT DECIDES
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TO SPEAK OUT, IT WILL ENDORSE ANGOLAN VERSION OF CONFLICT. TIES BETWEEN FRELIMO AND MPLA ARE CLOSE AND LONGSTANDING. GPRM WAS ONE OF MPLA'S STRONGEST SUPPORTERS IN PRE- AND POST-INDEPENDENCE POWER STRUGGLES WITH UNITA AND FNLA AND NOW REGARDS ANGOLA AS ONE OF ITS NATURAL "SOCIALIST" ALLIES. ON OTHER HAND, FRELIMO CONSIDERS CURRENT ZAIRIAN GOVERNMENT "FASCIST REGIME" IN THE PAY OF "INTERNATIONAL IMPERIALISM."

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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